inherently present," MPEP 706.02(a). As indicated at application page 8, line 12 - page 9, line 3, prior art print engines would print "garbage" following an error that destroyed the "end of document" codes of a first document because the PDL parsing process would not notify the master control process 40 of the error until several lines of "start of document" codes for a subsequent document had been parsed and lost to the master control. In the improved print engine the PDL determination process continues to execute while the document is being parsed by the appropriate PDL parsing process. As the document is parsed, the master control continues reading characters from the data stream buffer and continues determining if the PDL may have changed.

The print system of Pavlovic et al. include a decomposition facility 110 comprising a plurality of separate and independent decomposers (col. 4, line 26). According to Pavlovic et al. the appropriate decomposer is selected by "use of guessing algorithms associated with some controller of the decomposition facility" column 4, lines 36-43. While Pavlovic et al. disclose a spool for receiving a document, a plurality of decomposers, and "some controller" to identify the appropriate decomposer, contrary to the office action there is no explicit or implied indication that the second process (the controller) does not terminate "prior to the selected third process (the selected decomposer) parsing the document." Therefore, the applicant submits that Pavlovic et al. disclose a prior art print engine and does not anticipate the print engine of claim 1. Further, Pavlovic et al. do not anticipate dependent claims 2-9 for the same reason. Likewise with respect to claim 10, the applicant submits that there is no indication in Pavlovic et al. that a step of document examination for synchronization data continues while the document is being parsed by a printer description language. For this reason, it is also submitted that Pavlovic et al. do not anticipate claims 11-18 which are dependent from claim 10.

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Steeves et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,075,874. According to the office action Steeves et al. disclose a print engine comprising: (a) a first process receiving a document (receiving in buffers 23-26); (b) a second process (100) that examines the document to select which of a plurality of third processes (104, . . . , 126) is suitable to
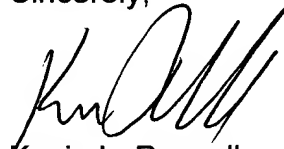
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parse the printer description language; (c) a first and second third processes to process the document using two PDLs; and (e) the "second process (100) not terminating prior to the selected third process parsing the document." Steeves et al. describe a process manager 100 that monitors the status of buffers in RAM. When it sees data in the buffer, it "determines which emulation module is the current one for the corresponding port" and "calls the appropriate emulation module" (col. 4, lines 38-42). The selected emulation module retrieves the input data from the buffer and translates the input instruction set to a common low-level instruction set employed by the printer (col. 4, lines 43-46). When the emulation module has filled a page or runs out of data, it notifies the process manager that the page is ready to print and process manager communicates with the LCU to start the print head (col. 4, lines 59-67). There is no explicit or implied indication that the process manager 100 continues to examine the data in the buffer after it has identified the document's PDL and notified the appropriate emulation module. The applicant submits that Steeves et al. do not anticipate the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and, by extension, dependent claims 2-8. Likewise, Steeves et al. do not anticipate claim 10 because there is no indication that Steeves et al. include a step wherein the examination process of step (b) is applied to search for synchronization data while the document is being parsed. Since the claim 10 is not anticipated, dependent claims 11-17 are, likewise, not anticipated.

Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pavlovic et al. or Steeves et al. in view of Niihara et al., U.S. Patent 5,854,940. As stated above, Pavlovic et al. and Steeves et al. do not teach the continuation of the PDL identification process during the parsing process. This deficiency is not cured by the teaching of Niihara et al. and, therefore, the combination of Niihara et al. and either Pavlovic et al. or Steeves et al. do render dependent claims 9 and 18 obvious.

The applicant believes that claims 1-18 of this application are now in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 1-18 to issue. If the Examiner disagrees or believes that for any reason direct contact with applicant's

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attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number above.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Russell

Reg. No. 38,292